

CLAIMS OF THE INVENTION

I CLAIM:

1. An apparatus for treating a fracture of a femur comprising:

an intramedullary nail configured for location in the intramedullary space of said femur, said intramedullary nail having a proximal end and a distal end, said intramedullary nail defining a blade passage extending there through, said blade passage located in a portion of said intramedullary nail proximal to said proximal end of said intramedullary nail; and

at least a first blade and a second blade, said at least one first and second blades configured to extend through said blade passage, said at least one first and second blades when positioned in said blade passage alone permitted to rotate with respect thereto, and wherein when said at least one first and second blades are positioned in the blade passage at the same time, rotation of said at least one first and second blades relative to said intramedullary nail is resisted.
2. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said at least one first and second blades each have an "I"-shaped cross-sectional shape.
3. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said intramedullary nail includes a locking screw passage extending from said proximal end to said blade passage.
4. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 3 wherein an axis extends along said intramedullary nail from its proximal to its distal end and said locking screw passage extends along at least a portion of said axis.

5. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 including a locking screw configured to engage said locking screw passage and one of said blades when said at least one first and second blade are located in said blade passage.

6. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 5 wherein said at least one first and second blades have a passage for accepting a portion of said locking screw.

7. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 wherein said blade passage has a generally oval cross-sectional shape.

8. The apparatus in accordance with Claim 1 including at least one passage through said intramedullary nail at said distal end thereof configured to accept a screw.

9. A blade guide for use in positioning a blade into a femur and into engagement with an intramedullary nail located in said femur comprising:

a body having a first portion adapted for connection to a proximal end of said intramedullary nail, said first portion extending outwardly generally transverse to said intramedullary nail when connected thereto, and a second portion extending in a second plane which is generally transverse to a first plane containing said first portion, said second portion including a passage there through, said passage positioned in said second portion in alignment with a blade passage extending through said intramedullary nail, said passage configured to accept at least one locking blade there through and guide said at least one blade into said blade passage.

10. The blade guide in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said first portion of said blade guide is a generally planar member.

11. The blade guide in accordance with Claim 10 wherein said generally planar member has a first end with a passage therein for accepting a fastener for fastening said blade guide to said intramedullary nail.

12. The blade guide in accordance with Claim 9 wherein said second portion extends in said second plane at an angle of between 60 and 85 degrees with respect to said first plane.